

# LINK-UP

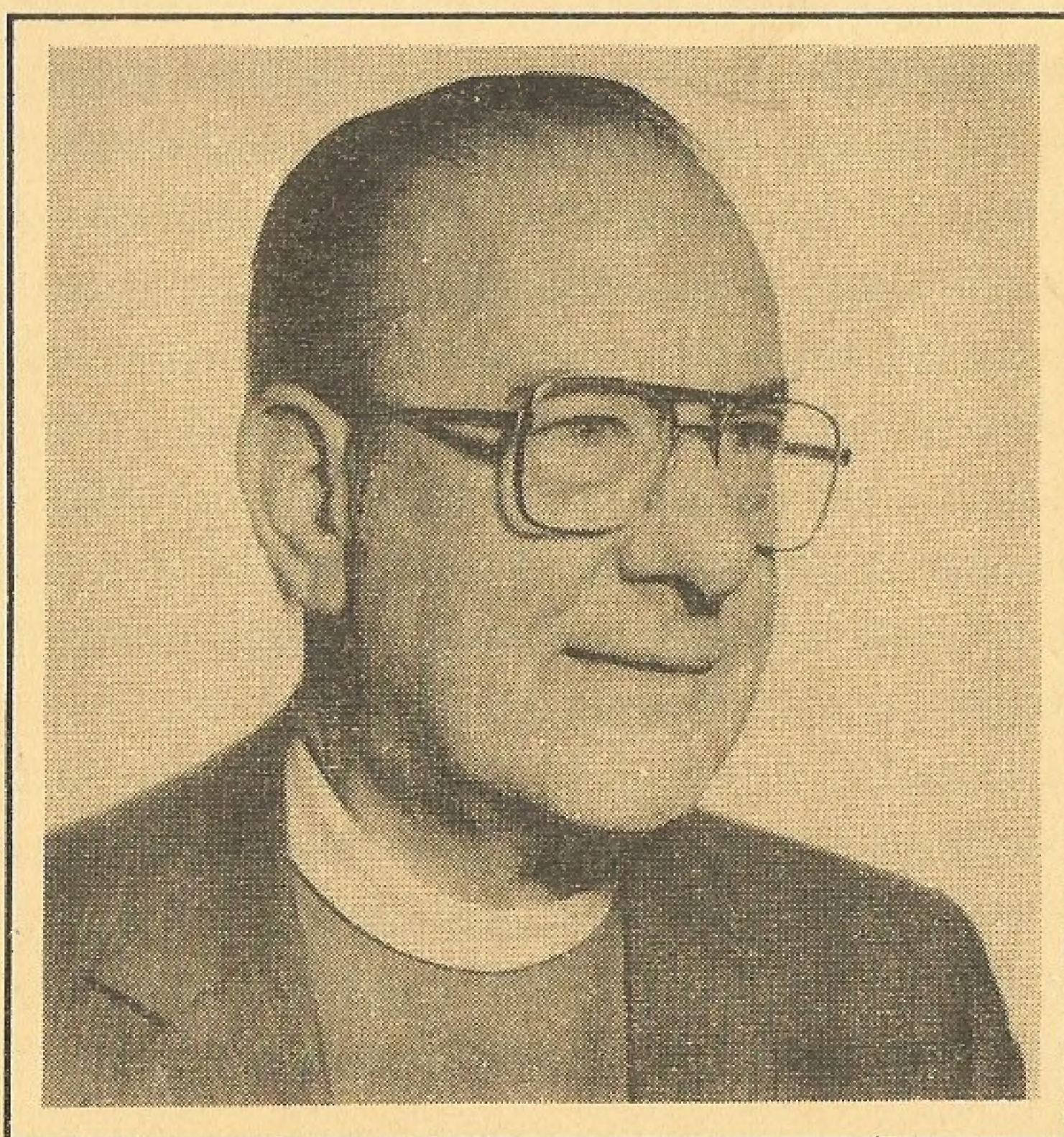
DUBLIN AND MUNSTER PRESBYTERY  
Presbyterian Church in Ireland

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Bulletin No. 1

October 1991

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Rev. DR W.T. McDOWELL (1922 - 1991)



*Funeral Address at Christ Church, Rathgar, Tuesday 9 July 1991*

William Taylor McDowell took ill, suddenly, on Sunday 30 June. He was brought to hospital in Tours, on the Loire, where he and Margaret were holidaying. He did not regain consciousness and died on Tuesday night.

If you have the sort of diary which tells you such things, you will see that that Sunday was the 6th after Pentecost. The lectionary, used by many Churches (including, for instance, the congregation here in Rathgar, at its early Communion) has as its theme for that Sunday *The New Man*. The OT reading is from the book of Exodus, chapter 24. It tells of how Moses, Aaron and other leaders of Israel ascended the holy mountain. 'They saw the God of Israel', we are told. And 'beneath his feet was what looked like a pavement of sapphire, as blue as the sky' — they had a glimpse of the magnificent glory of the ruler of the universe. But then the writer adds words which seem to us strangely incongruous. He said: 'they saw God, and then they ate and drank together.' What a prosaic, practical thing to do in the presence of almighty God! They saw God — and they ate and drank. But perhaps the ancient writer instinctively realised, better than we often do, that poetry needs to be complemented by prose. Vision and practicality must go hand in hand.

Vision and practicality. Those two characteristics marked the life of Willie McDowell. He caught the vision of God in his home congregation of Abbey, here in Dublin. Part of the practical outworking of that vision was that he offered himself for the ministry of the Presbyterian Church. That, in turn, meant the usual long training. He took a first class degree at Trinity and then a BD at Edinburgh, followed by a period at the Assembly's College, Belfast. His training and preparation went on through assistantships in First Bangor and Adelaide Road. In 1954 he accepted a call from the congregations of Kells and Ervey. For seven enjoyable years the vision of God was earthed and grew in those small congregations where he is still remembered with great affection. Practicality was, however, tinged with romance, for it was while he was in Kells that he met and married Margaret, thus adding a new and fulfilling dimension to his life. The joys and responsibilities of family were a constant source of strength to him. He took pride in his wife and children. And, of course, family meant that the vision of God had to be earthed anew and made real in that most intimate and searching of human communities. They saw God, and ate and drank together.

In 1961 he came to Sandymount and there he remained till he retired three years ago. At first he ministered to the Presbyterian congregation and then from 1975 to a united Methodist and Presbyterian congregation. The sensitive, patient and skilful way in which the union of the two congregations was brought about and cemented over the ensuing years was an excellent example of his vision and practicality. As with all parish ministers, preaching and the leading of worship were among his major responsibilities. Here too the vision had to be earthed. He was not a great orator, nor a mystic. Though a competent scholar, his sermons

were not overburdened with heavy theology. Rather, about his preaching (as about the man himself) there was a directness, simplicity and practicality. If you like big words, I suppose you could say that his was an incarnational theology. Though at home and happy in congregational work, his gifts and energies made it inevitable that his services should be required in the work of the wider Church. He served on a prodigious number of Assembly commissions and committees and boards, he was convener of not a few — such as committees relating to education in the Republic, the Home Mission, the Presbyterian Residential Trust, the Government Committee. When once he was trying to manipulate me on to some committee, I (a little petulantly, perhaps!) said I didn't love committees the way he did. He denied the charge vigorously (if not totally convincingly!). But if he didn't actually *love* committees he certainly knew how to *use* them. For him they were not simply to be cosy talking shops, but were to get something done. When once he had the vision of what should be aimed for, he patiently, doggedly, determinedly held them to the task till something was achieved. For better or worse, the Presbyterian Church does much of its work through committees. Willie knew the system inside out. He made it work and accomplished a great deal through it. And I suspect that it was, in part at least, in recognition of his service to the Church in this way that he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Divinity in 1983.

Many of us here, however, will remember him best as Clerk of the Presbytery of Dublin and Munster for 21 years. In our system of church government, a great deal of its effectiveness hinges around the Clerks of Presbytery. Willie was a model clerk. Not only was he efficient, but he accumulated over the years an immense knowledge of all the congregations in the Presbytery. He was fair in handling controversial issues and wise in the advice he gave — and also gracious if Presbytery was ever foolish enough not to accept his advice! His humour and courtesy were infectious and helped to ensure that the Presbytery was a remarkably harmonious and good-natured body. Perhaps even more important than his guidance of the actual meetings of Presbytery was his approachability and willingness to advise informally when individuals or congregations had problems. There must be many who are grateful for his understanding and help.

During most of the 1980s he was also Clerk of the Synod of Dublin, and he took an active interest in a number of what you might call 'para-Presbyterian' bodies. He was, for example, a leading member of the Presbyterian Association and, when changing circumstances demanded that its role change, it was he who came up with the idea of the P.A. Foundation, a charitable trust which has been able to give practical help to many individuals and organisations. Seeing the need for accommodation for the elderly, he was the driving force behind the building of Tritonville Close, and he retained an active interest in its running. He was involved in the re-location of his old school, St Andrew's College, and for many years was a member of its Board of Governors. In such ways vision was translated into reality.



Willie McDowell was a Presbyterian by upbringing and conviction. But he was no narrow churchman. He was an unashamed ecumenist, in the local community and also in representing the Presbyterian Church at civic or national functions. He was a regular attender of ecumenical conferences such as those at Greenhills and Glenstal. He was personally involved, at Sandymount, in the Alternating Ministry with the Methodist Church. He was for many years a representative on the Irish Council of Churches and he had friends and contacts in all the main churches. Latterly, he was proud to be a patron of the Irish School of Ecumenics. He had an ecumenical vision but also knew that this could only be realised by many small, practical steps towards unity. We thank God for Willie McDowell, the down-to-earth Christian who served the Church, local, national and catholic in so many practical ways. But we will recall him with gratitude not only as a churchman but also as a person.

The Epistle for the 6th Sunday after Pentecost is from Colossians. The reading begins; 'You are the people of God' and it goes on to urge: 'So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another... And to all these qualities add love...' I imagine that Willie would have modestly demurred at any suggestion that he fitted this picture. And no doubt, like the rest of us, he at times failed to live up to his own ideals, let alone the standards of the NT. But those of us who knew him may think that, most of the time, he did not fall far short. There was about him a graciousness and a humanity which made his Christianity attractive. Though a dedicated churchman, his interests were not exclusively ecclesiastical. He enjoyed music, photography, cheerful golf, travel, good company and 'crack'. In retirement he took night classes in French and carpentry — only recently he showed me (with justifiable pride) the bunk beds he was constructing for his holiday home in Connemara. He was a good friend and good company. His family and those who knew him intimately will have most affectionate memories of him. They will recall with gratitude

'That best portion of a good man's life,  
His little, nameless, unremembered acts  
of kindness and of love'.

But all of us will have memories - good memories - and we will thank God for his servant and our travelling companion.

We thank God. And yet we would be less than honest if we pretended that gratitude was our only emotion today. In reality, our joy is mingled with sadness. The confidence and hope that the Gospel gives us in the face of death does not mean that we Christians do not mourn. Of course we do. Bereavement is as real for us as for anyone else. The news of Willie's sudden death shocked us all. He will be greatly missed. For many of us, things won't be quite the same again. Sudden death, in a foreign land, creates additional strains for relatives. I know that Margaret and her family are grateful for the kindness and thoughtfulness which they received from the hospital in Tours and for those who helped them with the

inevitably more complicated funeral arrangements. They have coped with great courage during these difficult days. And they have the advantage of being a close-knit and mutually supportive family. But in the weeks, months and even years ahead there are bound to be grey days, times when some unexpected remark or incident will open the wounds again, times when the tears will flow. By our presence here today, we offer them our sympathy and support. But it must not be just for today. We must continue to remember them in our prayers and help them through the long process of bereavement -- by our listening if by nothing else. Christians are not immune from grief. But we do not mourn as those without hope. Our Christian faith enables us to give thanks to God even through our tears. With St Paul we can say: 'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the all-merciful Father, the God whose consolation never fails us! He consoles us in all our troubles, so that we in turn may be able to console others in any trouble of theirs and share with them the consolation we ourselves received from God'. I began by referring to the day of Willie's sudden and last illness, the 6th Sunday after Pentecost. The gospel for that day is the story of the Prodigal Son — or, as it is sometimes better entitled, the Parable of the Waiting Father. It, you remember, concludes with the father saying to the elder brother: 'We had to celebrate and be happy, because your brother was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.' That says it all! For William Taylor McDowell, the party has begun! Thanks be to God!

*To him who can keep us from falling  
and set us in the presence of his glory,  
joyful and above reproach,  
to the only God our Saviour,  
be glory and majesty, might and authority,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
before all time, now, and in all ages to come.*

Robin Mac Dermott

## ABBAY DUBLIN

From *The Abbey Magazine* for September, edited by Mrs E. Nicholson and kindly sent to us by the minister, the Rev. Alan V. Martin, we reprint the following notes:

Visitors to Abbey during July came from California, Canada, New Zealand, the USSR, Yugoslavia, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Donegal and Dublin 7. During August they came from Nigeria, Canada, East Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Co. Kildare and Co. Mayo.... (p. 9).



The Leprosy Mission Annual Sale of Work will take place on Wednesday 9 October 1991 from 10.30 a.m. in Christ Church Hall, Rathgar...(p.10).

Has any other congregation in the Presbytery thought of Abbey's novel fund-raising idea---the Coin Jar?:

Peggy McKee reports that to date the coin jar in the vestibule has produced £247.40...(p.9).

### ADELAIDE ROAD DONORE

This past year we have had a visit from the Moderator, followed by a congregational lunch (Sunday 14 April) and a very successful Garden Party at the Manse (Saturday 22 June), followed by anniversary services when we welcomed many past and current friends on Sunday 23 June.

The children's holiday club which took place in our hall Monday 1 to Friday 5 July for the children of the community was staffed by members of our congregation and went even better than we could have hoped for. The holiday club was based on the SU material 'The "J" Team' and attracted 42 children by the final day. We feel this was a most worthwhile venture.

The key event of major importance for our further 150th Anniversary is the visit of Mr Michael Perrott of the YMCA for a week of celebration. Special services will take place in our church on Sunday 3 and 10 November, and members of other congregations would be especially welcome to attend the evening services at 7 on those days.

Frank Sellar

Reading Adelaide Road Donore's 150th Anniversary Newsletter reminds us that Professor R.A. Stewart Macalister, LittD, MRSA, FRSAI (1870-1950), archaeologist, linguist and Associate of the Royal College of Organists, was organist and choirmaster of Adelaide Road Church from 1920 to 1927. He was also an elder of the congregation and the author of its history, copies of which are now excessively scarce. I'm still hoping that a copy may one day turn up for my collection of congregational histories.

Macalister, two portraits of whom hang in the Royal Irish Academy, had, according to Professor R. Buick Knox, a large share in the preparation of the Revised Church Hymnary (*Bulletin of the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland*, no. 9, 1979, p. 9).

Hon. Ed.

### AGHADA AND TRINITY CORK

Both congregations were saddened by the death on 16 June of the minister emeritus, Rev. Brian Graeme-Cooke, after a long illness bravely endured. Our sympathy and prayers are with his widow Irmgard and his brother Don, until recently a member of Dun Laoghaire. We were also sorry to hear of the death of Rev. Dr Wm McDowell, who was well known in Aghada where he had family links. Dr McDowell gave the address at Mr Graeme-Cooke's funeral where we were also honoured with the attendance of Rt Rev. Dr Rodney Sterritt who brought the sympathy of the General Assembly.

#### Aghada

Major repairs to the exterior and the provision of toilet facilities were completed just in time for the wedding on 31 May of Irene Jeffery and Gordon Galbraith. We wish them well in their life at Ballyroan, Abbeyleix, although we shall be sorry to lose a Sunday School teacher! The bill for repairs of £7200 is being met through a Home Mission grant and the generosity of members and many local people who supported a cookery demonstration organised by Mrs Edna Tait. Some of our members involved in sheep rearing also provided the price of a lamb!

The Dean of Ross, V.Rev. Robert Townley, preached at the Harvest Service on 15 September.

Our best wishes to Patrick Weber and Barbara Zingg who were married in Aghada on 31 August and likewise to John Eccles and Mary Slocum who are looking forward to their wedding there on 5 October.

#### Trinity

We offer deepest sympathy to Avрил and Jeanette Wagner on the sudden death of Eddie on 7 August.

An Outreach Team of 20 young Presbyterians, including Marie Barry (Kilkenny) and Mervyn McCullagh (Adelaide Rd Donore) worked hard in Cork from 27 July to 4 August, sharing in our services, doing a door to door Christian literature lending scheme, running an evening coffee bar in Trinity hall and singing hymns at St Luke's Home for the elderly. 40 books were placed in 20 homes in the city. The team also opened the church to afternoon visitors, something we want to do on a longer term basis. Opening the doors for just an hour on weekdays usually finds two or three, local people and tourists, interested in seeing around and asking about who we are! Three local folk attending the coffee bar asked if it could not be continued in some way through the year.

Plans for the autumn include an 'offering of talents'. Members are being asked to indicate what tasks and activities they would be involved in, to promote worship, fellowship and service. Rev. Dr Trevor Morrow is to preach at our Harvest Service on 12 October.

John Faris



## AGHADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Historical Notes by Mrs Edna Tait, Congregational Secretary

In 1869 the Presbyterians attended church in a building in Farsid, now called Rostellan, belonging to the Episcopal Church, but later they were evicted from it. This building was later a dance hall and was afterwards demolished. Four mural tablets were stored in Rostellan Castle and these were discovered by the late Miss N. Humphreys and reconditioned by the late Mr Bill Cox, both members of Aghada Presbyterian Church.

The congregation then worshipped in the home of Mr and Mrs James Tait, Hermitage, Rostellan, until 1899; then in a small church --- a corrugated iron building built by a Scottish firm --- until 1925. Then the Church of Ireland sold (us) their church in Upper Aghada for the sum of £100 for the church, £15 for the organ and £4.10s. for the communion table. The opening service was held on 20 May 1925. Aghada and Cobh Scots Church were united until Cobh closed in 1969. Then Aghada joined with Trinity Presbyterian Church in Cork.

Four years ago the church had to be re-roofed at a cost of £10000. The Home Mission gave a grant of £6000 and the rest of the money was raised by a sale of work which made over £1000; the balance was made up by the congregation and their friends. Now the church has been re-plastered and water laid on with toilet facilities, and the cost will be approximately £7000. A further grant was given by the Home Mission of £3200 and every effort is being made to clear the debt. Unfortunately our numbers are small, but Aghada continues to be a loyal outpost of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

## BALLINA, KILLALA AND BALLYMOTE

In Ballina during the summer we have enjoyed a number of visitors, mostly from the North. These have included members of Killinchy, Co. Down, with whom we have a 'twinning' arrangement. This has been in existence for about two years and is proving of interest and value for both parties.

Graniamore (Ballymote) is not on the tourist trail but the summer there has been marked by two weddings. On 1 June Elizabeth Thorpe married Edwin Tutty; and on 5 August Yvonne Orr married Thomas Cogan. We wish them well!

In Mullafarry (Killala) we were in danger of losing the congregation through the floor. Rotted timbers on one side of the church have been replaced and we now feel safer!

The death of Miss Elizabeth Carson, late of Ballintean, Mullafarry, took place on

13 July 1991.

Robin Mac Dermott

## BLACKROCK AND BRAY

### St Andrew's, Blackrock

Baptism: 28 July, Stuart Robert son of Malcolm and Lorna Loughrey of 7 Seafield Crescent.

Deaths: 25 June Miss May Cowle of Glengarragh Park, Dun Laoghaire.

1 July: Mr Norman Rankin of 22 Greenville Road, Stradbroom.

2 July: Rev. Willie McDowell of 15 Brookville Park.

The harvest thanksgiving services will be held on 13 October at 10 a.m. & 7 p.m. The PWA service will take place on 20 October. The guest preacher will be Frances Wright who is a deaconess in Islandmagee, Co. Antrim.

It was a joy to welcome a party from our 'twin' church, Streat, in Newtownards, for a weekend of friendship and fellowship. Rev. David Campbell of Streat preached at our morning service on 29 September. These visits help us in the Republic to understand better the life and work of our fellow Presbyterians in Northern Ireland. Our guests learn something of what it is to live in a situation where Presbyterians are 'thin on the ground'. It is always worthwhile celebrating together our common faith and hope.

The fund-raising committee is holding an auction of household effects.

Young Peoples' day is Sunday 15 December. This service will be conducted by our Sunday school as part of our Advent celebrations.

The service on the Sunday before Christmas (22 December) will be broadcast live on RTE radio.

### St Andrew's, Bray

Mr Jimmy Buchanan, formerly of Raheen Park, Bray, died in Kilkenny hospital on 24 August. Jimmy served on our Kirk Session before moving to Clonmel some years ago.

Harvest Thanksgiving services will take place on 20 October at 11.30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

There is to be a Presbytery visitation of our congregation this autumn. On Monday 18 November we will welcome the Presbytery Commission who will inspect all aspects of the work of the congregation. A visitation presents us with the opportunity of sprucing up our property and taking stock of our life and work together as God's people.

At a meeting of the congregation in May it was decided that the Manse on Old



Connaught Avenue should be sold. It is hoped that the auction will take place in the autumn.

We were glad to welcome Mr Basil Norgate of the London City Mission on Sunday 22 September. St Andrew's has a tradition of friendly contact with the evangelistic and philanthropic work of LCM.

St Andrew's School is no longer available as a church hall because it has been let to the VEC for educational purposes. We are therefore grateful to those who refurbished the north transept of the church, making it a welcoming meeting place for the congregation.

The combined schools of St Andrew's and Sunbeam House began classes on 3 September in the brand new building on Newcourt Avenue. The new school is bright, cheerful and will surely be an asset for our youngsters for many a long year.

Denis Campbell

## DROGHEDA AND ERVEY

### Drogheda

20 October 1991: Harvest Service 7 p.m.: Preacher Rev. R.F.S. Poots, BA, BD, Assistant Clerk of the General Assembly.

The new session of the Presbyterian Women's Association begins on the first Monday of October and will continue monthly.

### Congregational Outing

An outing organised by Mr Bill McIlreavy, one of the elders, was held in Doonaree Forest Park, Kingscourt, on Saturday 24 August. A representative number of the congregation took part along with some friends. A most enjoyable time was had by all followed by a picnic tea. A treasure hunt planned by Colin and Raymond McIlreavy was much enjoyed and the beauties of the forest park viewed as the various clues were followed along the scenic paths.

### Future Events

22 December 1991 Carol Service.

20 January 1992 Greenhills Ecumenical Conference.

22 January 1992 Annual Ecumenical Service 8 p.m.

### Ervey

13 October 1991: Harvest Service 3 p.m.: Preacher Rev. S Hutchinson, BA, BD, MTh, Clerk of the General Assembly.

## Baptisms

5 May 1991 Andrew George Frazer, son of Mr and Mrs George T. Frazer.

28 July 1991 Stefan James McEnteer, son of Mr and Mrs James McEnteer.

## Future Events

19 January 1992 United Service with St Ernan's Church of Ireland, Kingscourt, 12 noon: Preacher Ven. T. G. Corrigan, Archdeacon of Meath and Rector of Kingscourt.

19 January 1992 Annual United Ecumenical Service in Kingscourt Community Centre 3 p.m.

The Kells and Ervey branch of the Presbyterian Women's Association will meet alternately at Kells and Ervey as announced for the winter session.

Charles McCurdy

## GALWAY AND BALLINASLOE

### United Methodist/Presbyterian Churches

Although we are a two-Church Circuit the Ballinasloe Church, which is forty-five mile from Galway, has only four members and so the main focus rests in the City of Galway.

Galway is the fastest growing city in Europe and the past four years have seen a tremendous amount of growth taking place. This has also affected the Church.

We have been greatly encouraged by the growth in our congregation which has been reflected in the attendance at Sunday worship. This has been partly due to the fact that we have a number of overseas families (USA and Nigeria) in Galway for a short term, but we have also had a number of families who have come to settle here. We are also delighted to have around 20 children in our Sunday School even though we are having difficulty accommodating them. During the summer months our congregation increases dramatically with visitors from many different places.

Our Church in Galway plays a very important role in the life of the wider community with many of our members involved in organisations such as the Mental Health Association and the Home Sharing Project for mentally handicapped children. The Church also reaches out into the community through the work of the Mother and Toddler Club which provides caring and friendship for many new families who have recently moved to Galway, and the 630 Club, a



children's club where we try to share the message of Jesus through song, games, stories and activities.

We continue to meet during the week for praise, Bible study and prayer and after the summer break we will continue our journey through the book of Ephesians. Although numbers have been small God has continued to bless us as we meet together.

In matters of property the work of God continues in the major overhaul of the property situation. Work on the Church building has included major re-roofing, a new ceiling, replastering three interior walls, redecoration and the cleaning of the outside of the building. The property situation has also been improved with the completion of a new Manse.

This year we have had a visit from both the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (Rev. Dr. Finlay Holmes) and the President of the Methodist Church (Rev. William Buchanan). We were delighted to have the Moderator open our new Manse, while the President performed an act of rededication after the major renovations to the church.

Galway is a very cosmopolitan city with people from many countries coming to live, work and study in the University, Regional Hospital and various industries. This is reflected in our congregation as people from different countries and religious backgrounds come together to worship God and witness to His love and forgiveness.

Alan Macaulay

#### GREYSTONES AND ARKLOW

At Greystones coffee mornings were held each Wednesday during July and August in the recently refurbished church hall. These were a great success, socially as well as financially. The proceeds go to the building maintenance fund.

Also during July and August CSSM at Greystones catered for about 400 children with a team of around 60.

At the end of June we lost the McCaws — Raymond and Colette (née O'Neill) — a young couple from Northern Ireland whose stay in Greystones was short but who endeared themselves to everyone in the congregation. We wish them success and God's blessing in their new field of endeavour.

Caroline Foster has just returned from Australia, bringing us greetings from St Andrew's Uniting Church, Turramurra South, where she worshipped during her holiday in the Sydney area. Claud and Edith McFarland set off to visit their Australian relatives on Saturday 14 September. Alex, Myriam and Nelson Bergin are on a visit to Myriam's relatives in Brazil.

In Arklow the church was full most Sundays for the summer services and the Holiday Bible Club went excellently.

#### LIMERICK

The Rev. Tony Davidson, minister of the joint Presbyterian-Methodist congregation worshipping at 52 O'Connell Street, Limerick, has sent us a copy of the September *Christ Church News* edited by Mike Watterson. From it we take two extracts illustrative of the outreach work being done by this congregation.

Kerry Nicholson has just graduated from his Art training. However, rather than starting to teach in September, he will be our own 'Missionary' in Belfast. He has just finished helping in outreach work in Lucan... Kerry will be working with Careforce for about 10 months at 174 Antrim Road, the Salt-Shaker outreach. We need to give him support in prayer as well as some financial contribution to Careforce (p.1).

And here's an extract from John Scott's Letter from Tralee:

...There used to be both Methodist and Presbyterian congregations in Tralee. The Jehovah Witnesses are in the former Methodist hall and Dúchas is (in) the former Presbyterian building. The Presbyterian Home Mission is investigating the 'demand' for a Presbyterian-Methodist form of church life in Tralee.

We have been meeting in Moyderwell VEC for Sunday worship and having weekly Bible studies. Most are visitors on holiday (some from Christ Church!) with some 'locals'. I know that some of you have been praying for me and my work in Tralee. I do appreciate it. I value very much my connection with Christ Church in this work...(p.9).

The Limerick congregation's Harvest Services at 11.30 and 7 on Sunday 13 October will be led by the Rev. Des Bain.

#### LUCAN

Greetings from Lucan Presbyterian!

The summer months have seen a good deal of activity here. Our annual 'Summerfest' outreach ran from 29 July - 10 August this year at the Lucan Youth Centre. The team of 40 the first week, and 50 the second, included folk from churches in France (with Gordon Campbell), the USA, as well as Ireland, North and South. More young people were in attendance than ever - about 350 total for both weeks. The 'Summerfest' continues to be a most important element in the



outreach strategy of Lucan Presbyterian.

The finish of 'Summerfest' led straight into the start of the Youthreach Festival in Coleraine. Many of our young people participated. In addition, David Montgomery ('Monty') gave afternoon messages on the topic, 'What Unites and What Divides,' as well as hosting the evening kick-off programmes. Carys Morrow gave a seminar on 'Falling in Love,' dealing with the sensitive issue of teens and sexuality.

As a new arrival to the Dublin area, the Rev. R. Steve Stockman ('Stocky') was inducted on 6 September as the Youth Development Officer for the Republic of Ireland. Stocky has made fabulous contributions to youth programmes in the North over the past several years, and we consider it a real asset to have him joining us here in the South.

Finally, another new face in the area is Ellen Lopushinsky, from University Presbyterian Church in Seattle, Washington, USA. Young people from University Presbyterian have come to be involved in Ireland's summer outreach teams, North and South, for the past 5 years; Ellen was one of those here during 1988. Ellen has returned to help for one year with administration and youth ministry at Lucan Presbyterian.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

Trevor Morrow

#### WORLD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 1991 APPEAL

The Rev. Jack Drennan, minister of Athy, Carlow and Naas, writes on behalf of the Committee:

...This year we are thinking about development and conservation with an emphasis on women. We all want to see 'God's world working for all' (Col.1:17). This will mean encouraging those projects which will help to reclaim our environment from the ravages of pollution, pillage and waste. We will be working with our partners, Christian Aid and Tear Fund, to support our brethren in planting trees in Tigray and Pakistan and in making Bukina a greener place; and we will be supporting projects which will help women to be treated in a more equitable way.

At the same time we are calling ourselves to conserve, protect and steward, and for this reason all the appeal material will be on re-cycled paper. It would be rather hypocritical of us to call 'them' to do this while we continue on our merry way.

Has your congregation a World Development Agent who will keep the issues before the church? If you haven't one why not consider appointing one or asking the missionary agent to take on the job?

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Bulletin No. 2 will appear, God willing, on 4 February 1992 — but only if 'copy' is submitted in good time (by 7.1.92). Please address all matter for inclusion to the Honorary Editor, LINK-UP, Farranshane, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. Warm thanks and best wishes to all who helped to make this first issue available.